### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

Permittee: Florida Department of Transportation, District 2

Attn: Van Humphreys 1109 South Marion Ave.

Lake City, Florida 32025-5874

Permit No: SAJ-2008-61(IP-AWP)

trails ----

#### Issuing Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

Project Description: The placement of clean fill material into 1.12 acres of waters of the United States, wetlands and surface waters, for the widening of SR-21 (Blanding Blvd.) from a 4-lane roadway to a 6-lane divided urban roadway, including 4-foot bike lanes, and 6 foot sidewalk in each direction (FPN 208211-2-52-01). The project also involves the widening of the existing dual bridges over Little Black Creek. Widening of the bridges will be done to the inside. The work described above is to be completed in accordance with the 3 attachments affixed at the end of this permit instrument.

Project Location: The project is the widening of State Road 21 (SR-21) also known as Blanding Blvd. from Old Jennings Road to Knight Boxx Road, in Section 28 & 33, Township 4 South, Range 25 East, northeastern Clay County, Florida. The project as proposed will impact jurisdictional waters of the United States (wetlands) associated with Little Black Creek.

<u>Directions to site</u>: From the intersection of SR-21 and I-295 proceed southwest on SR-21 for approximately 7.52 miles to the intersection SR-21 and Knight Boxx Road. The project extends approximately 1.1 miles to Old Jennings Road.

PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 2 of 9

Latitude & Longitude: Latitude 30°07'10.08" North Longitude 81°48'17.59" West

#### Permit Conditions

#### General Conditions:

- 1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **March 16, 2014**. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.
- 2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
- 3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and the mailing address of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
- 5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.

PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 3 of 9

6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

#### Special Conditions:

- 1. **Reporting Address:** All reports, documentation and correspondence required by the conditions of this permit shall be submitted to the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232. The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2007-2914(IP-AWP), on all submittals.
- 2. Commencement Notification: Within 10 days from the date of initiating the authorized work, the Permittee shall provide to the Corps a written notification of the date of commencement of work authorized by this permit.
  - 3. Erosion Control: Prior to the initiation of any work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall install erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material. Immediately after completion of the final grading of the land surface, all slopes, land surfaces, and filled areas adjacent to wetlands shall be stabilized using sod, degradable mats, or a combination of similar stabilizing materials to prevent erosion. The erosion control measures shall remain in place and be maintained until all authorized work has been completed and the site has been stabilized.
  - 4. Mitigation Credit Purchase: Within 30 days from the date of initiating the authorized work or 12 months from the effective date of this permit, whichever first occurs, the Permittee shall provide verification to the Corps that 0.60 federal mitigation bank credits have been purchased from the Loblolly Mitigation Bank (SAJ-2002-7493). The required verification shall reference this project's permit number (SAJ-2008-31).
  - 5. **Fill Material:** The Permittee shall use only clean fill material for this project. The fill material shall be free from items such as trash, debris, automotive parts, asphalt, construction materials, concrete block with exposed

PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 4 of 9

reinforcement bars, and soils contaminated with any toxic substance, in toxic amounts in accordance with Section 307 of the Clean Water Act.

#### Further Information:

- 1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:
- ( ) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
  - (X) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
- () Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413).
  - 2. Limits of this authorization.
- a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.
- b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
- c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
- d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.
- 3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:
- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
- b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 5 of 9

c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

- d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
- e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.
- 4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.
- 5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
- b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).
- c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170)

PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 6 of 9

accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 7 of 9

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

(PERMITTEE)

<u>5-19-0</u> (DATE)

(PERMITTEE NAME-PRINTED)

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

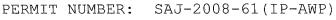
DISTRICT ENGINEER)

Paul L. Grosskruger Colonel, U.S. Army

District Commander

23 Moch 2009

(DATE)



PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 8 of 9

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)	(DATE)
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(NAME-PRINTED)	
	-
(ADDRESS)	
(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)	

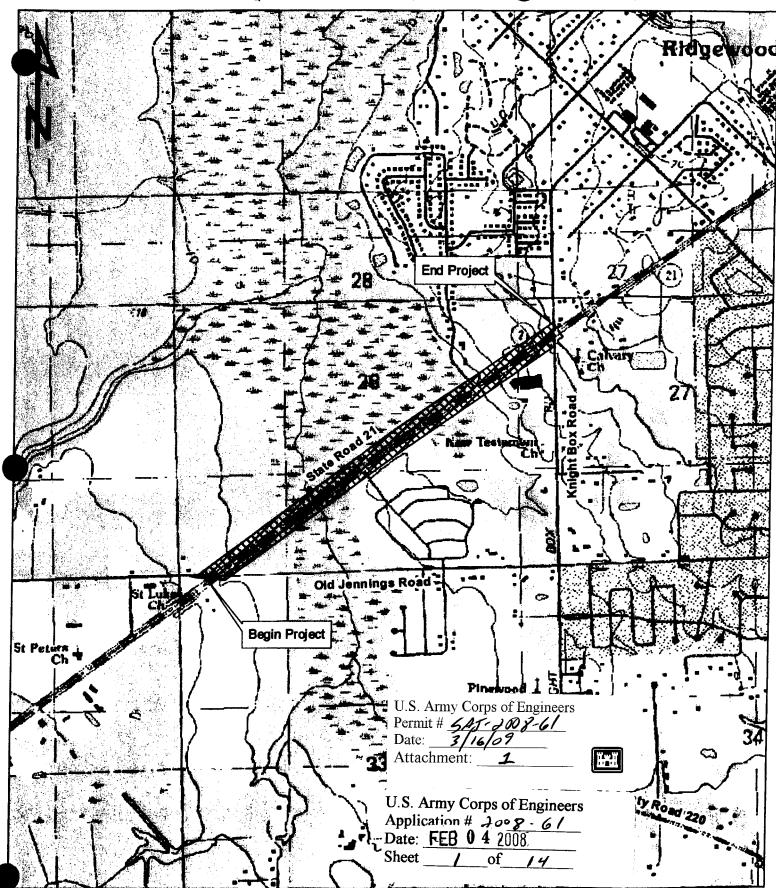
PERMITTEE: FDOT-District 2

PAGE 9 of 9

## Attachments to Department of the Army Permit Number SAJ-2008-61(IP-AWP)

- 1. PERMIT DRAWINGS: 14 pages, dated 2/4/08
- 2. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Specific Conditions of the water quality permit/certification in accordance with General Condition number 5 on page 2 of this DA permit. 6 pages
- 3. As-Built Certification: 1 page

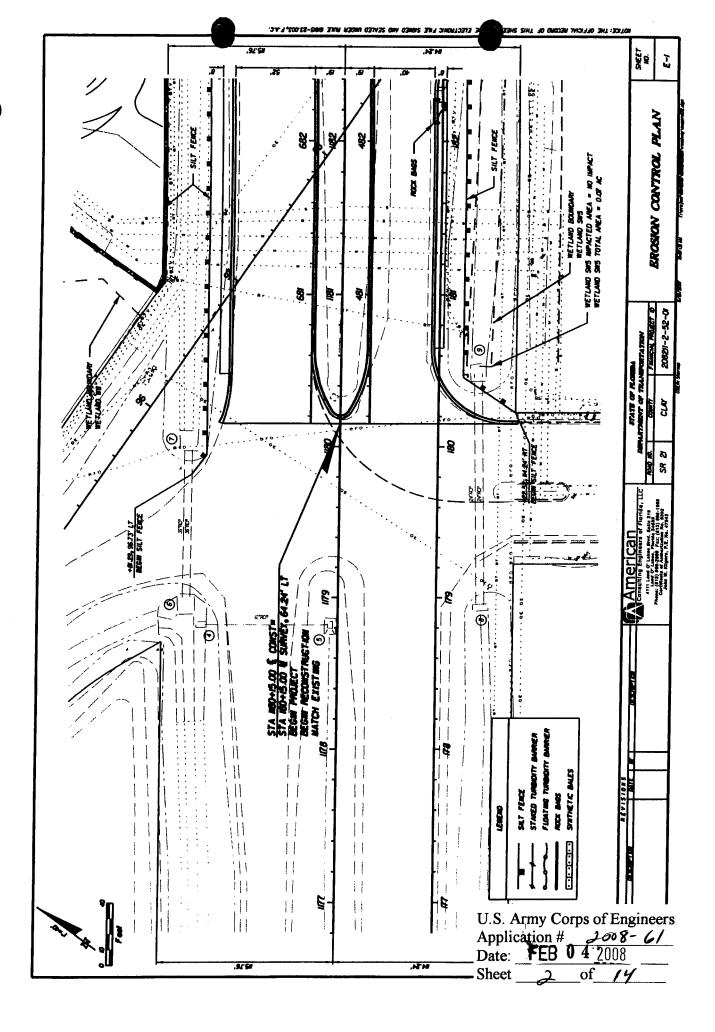
## Figure **\*\***USGS Project Location Map

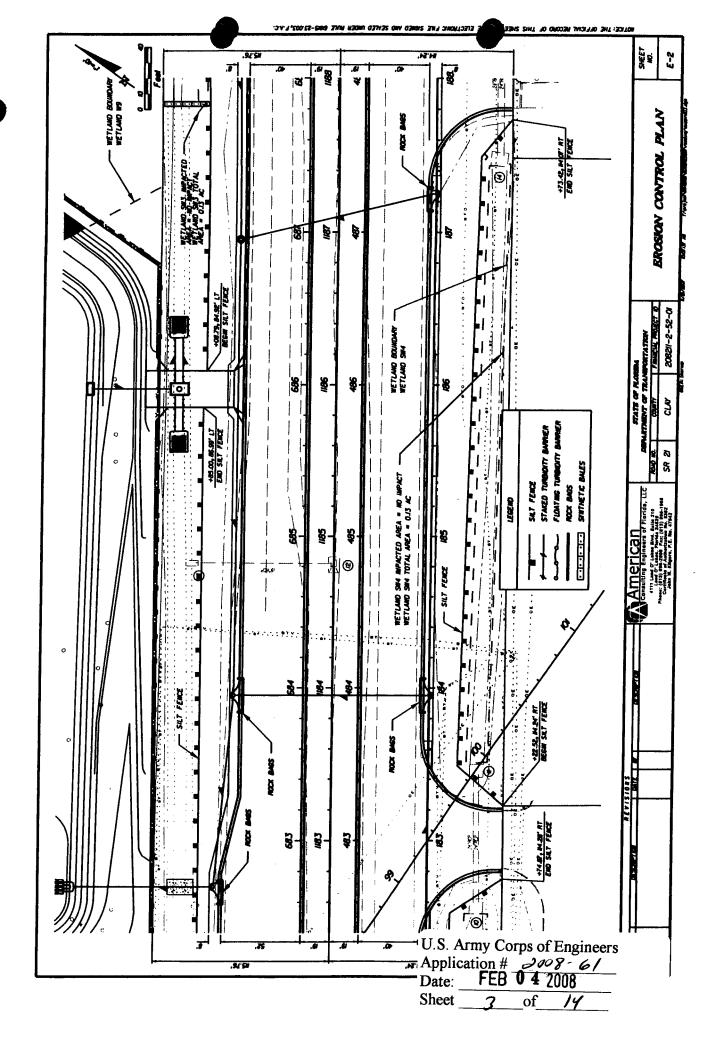


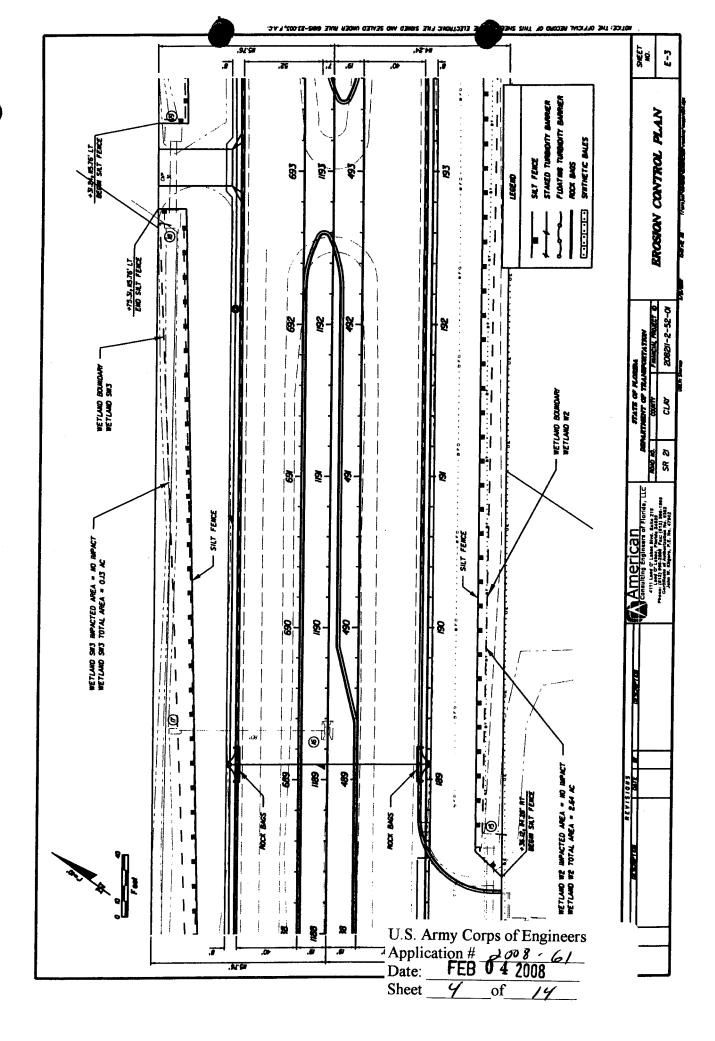
Clay County - S28,33;T04;R25

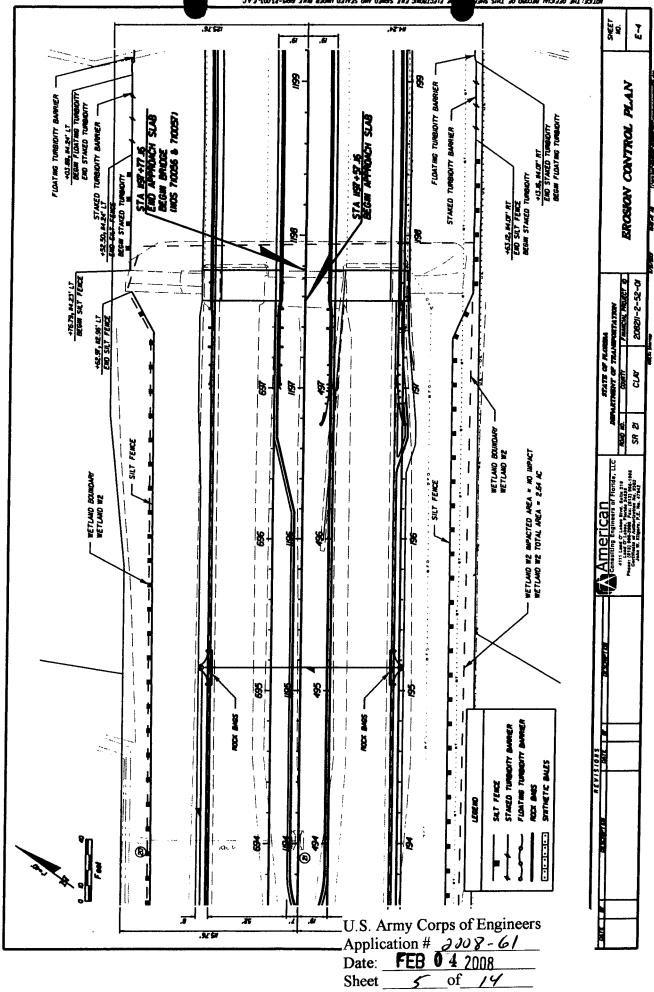
Project Area

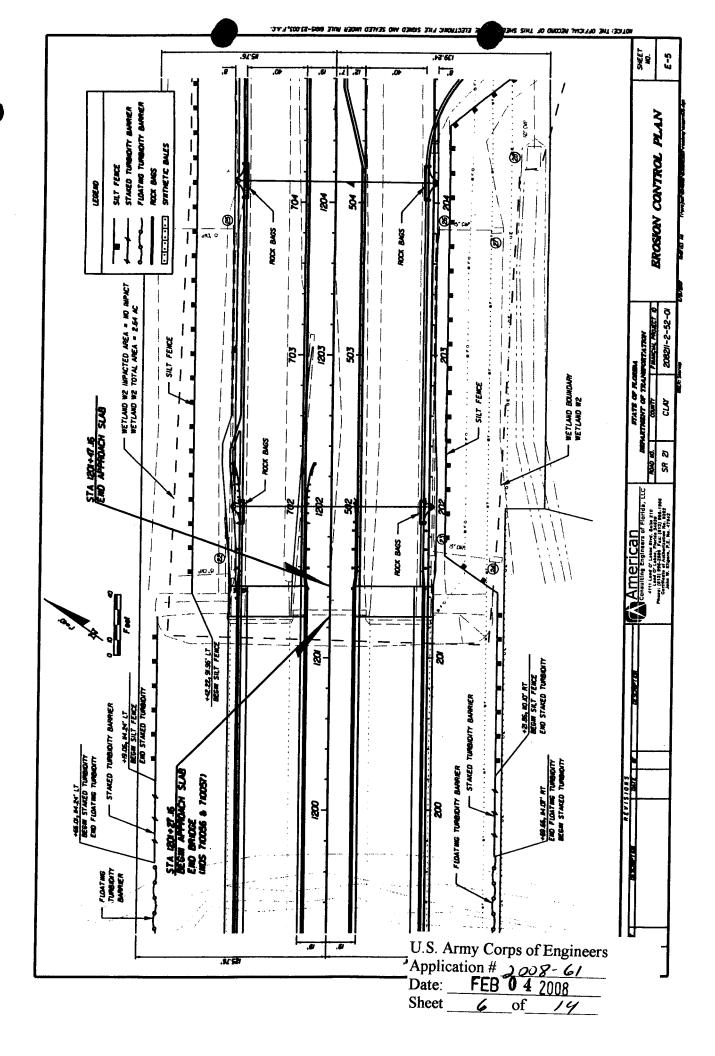
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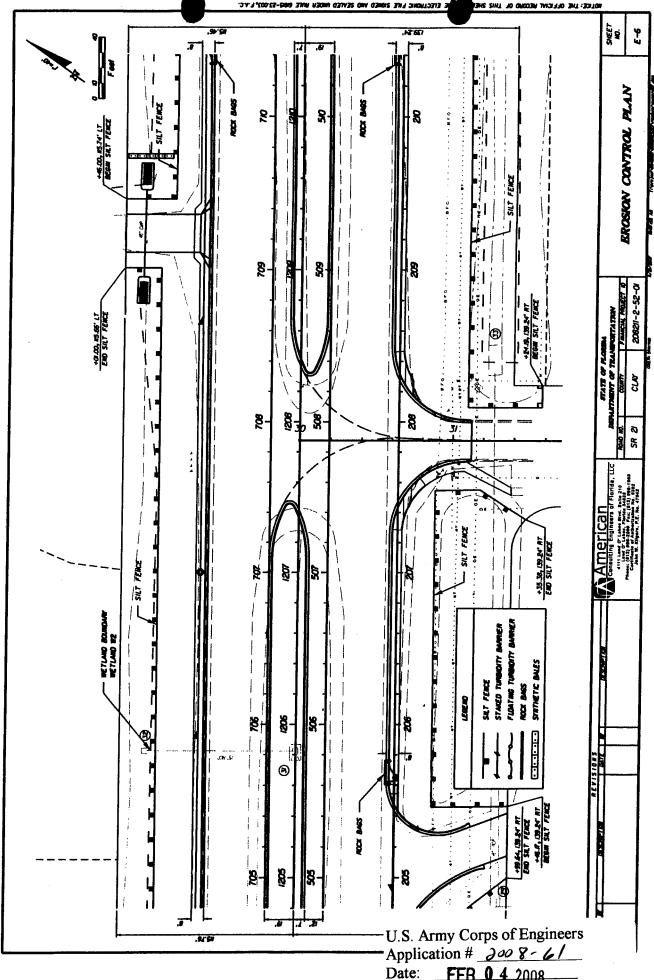




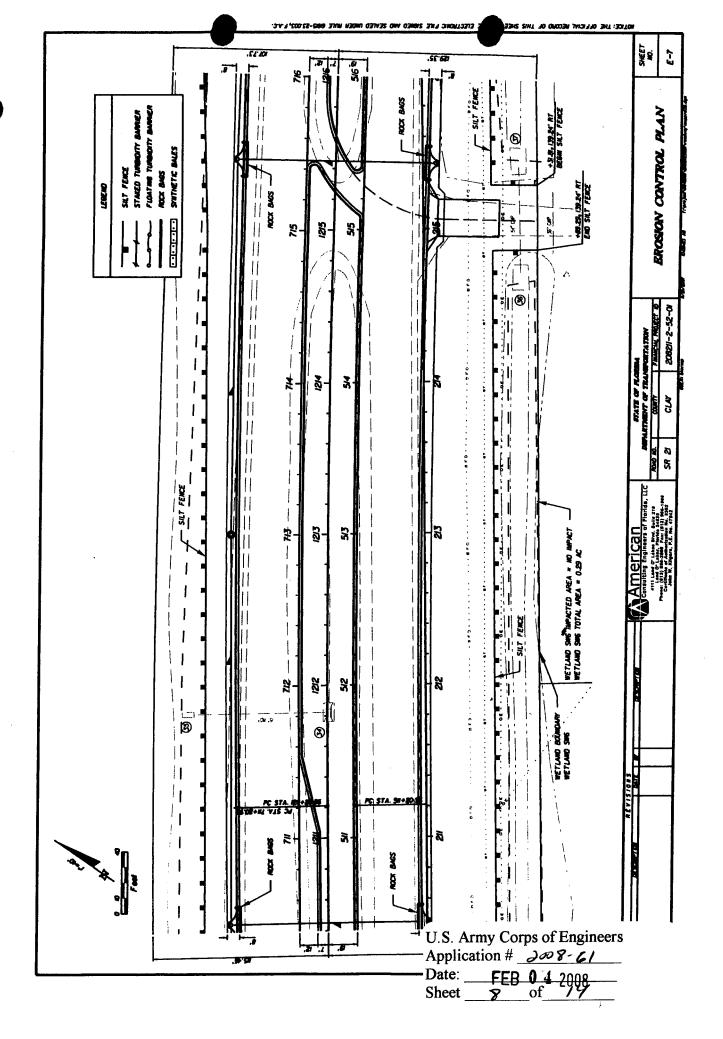


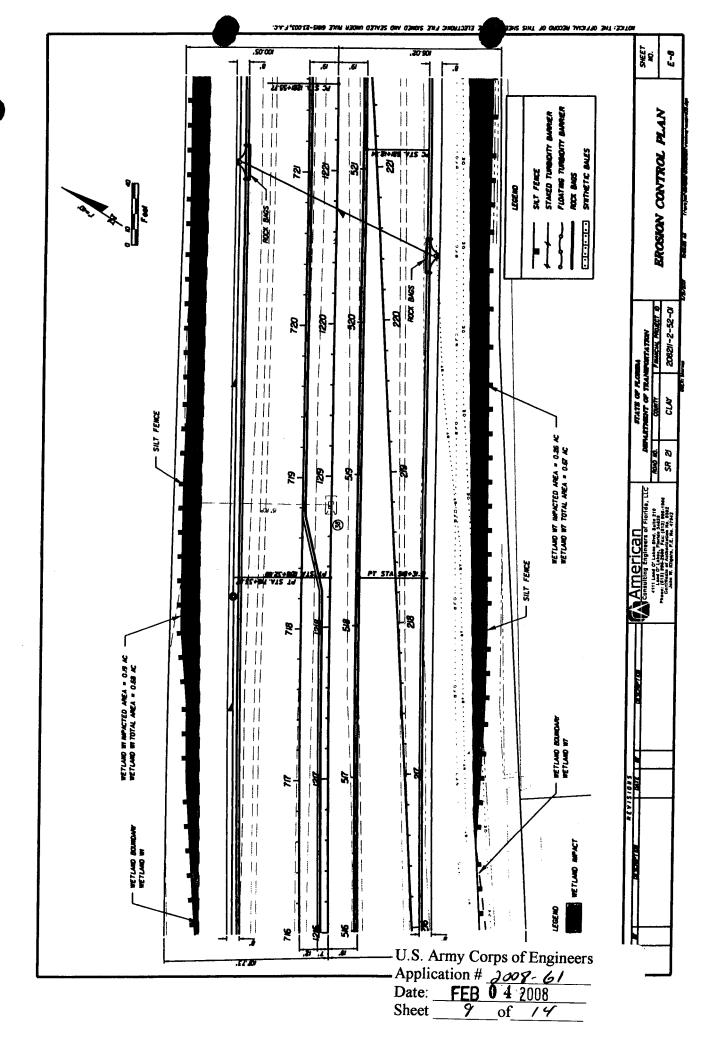


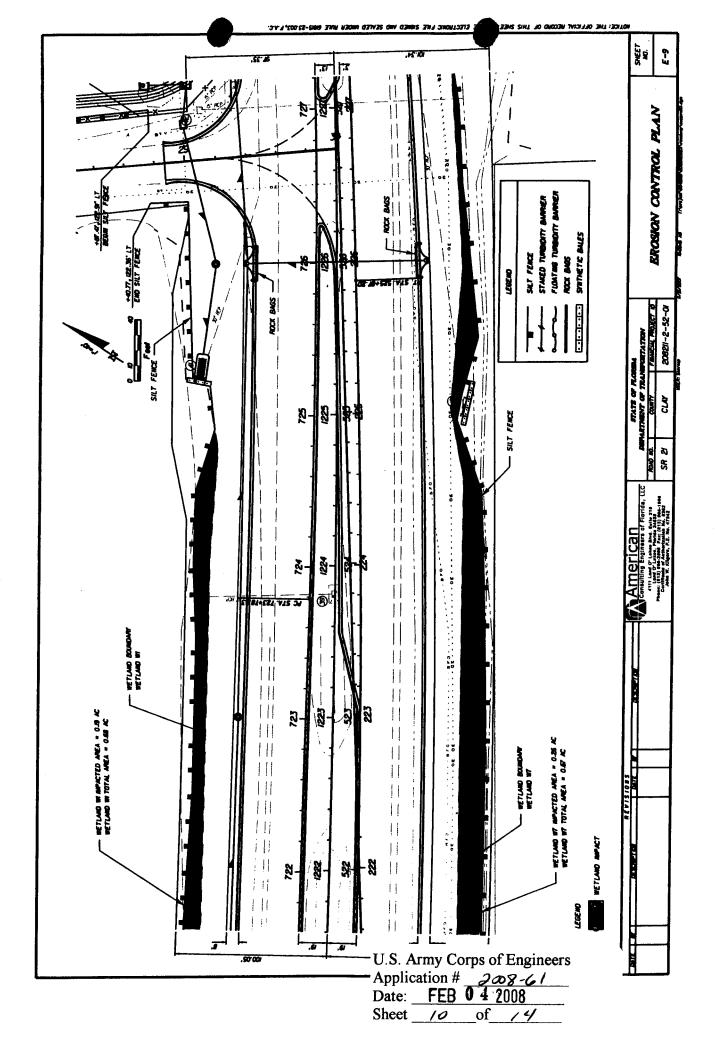


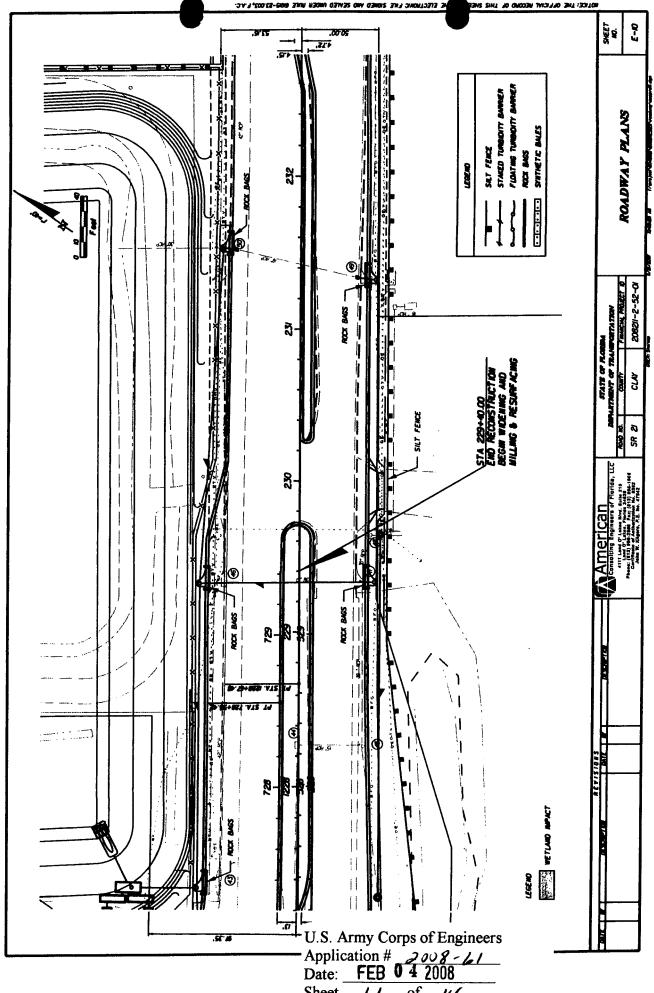


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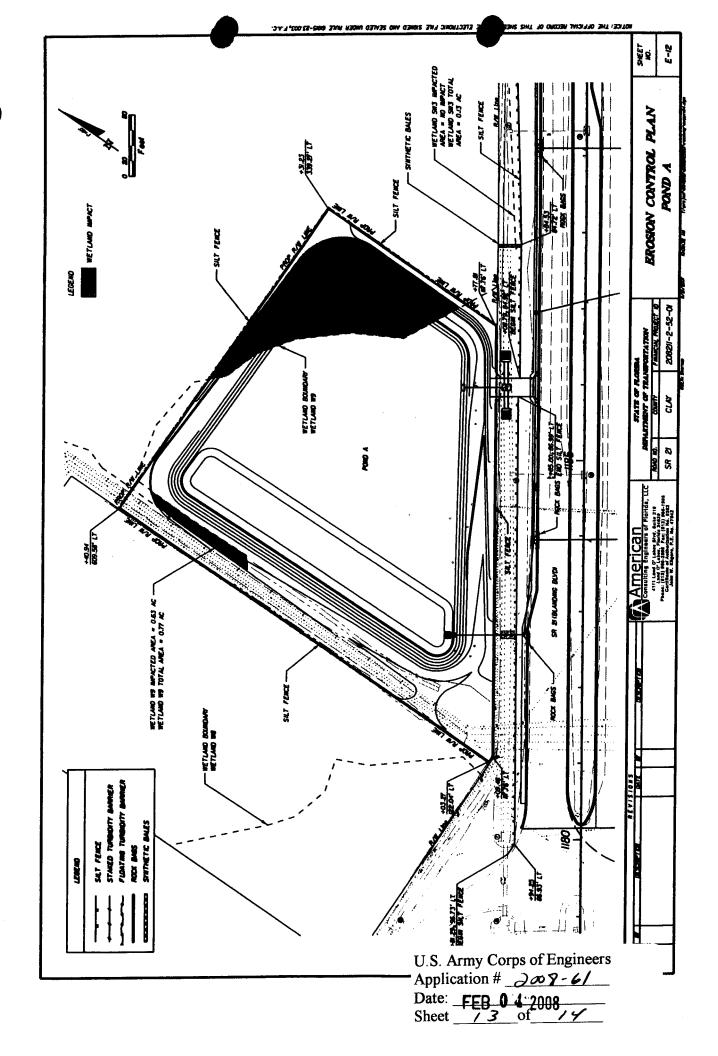


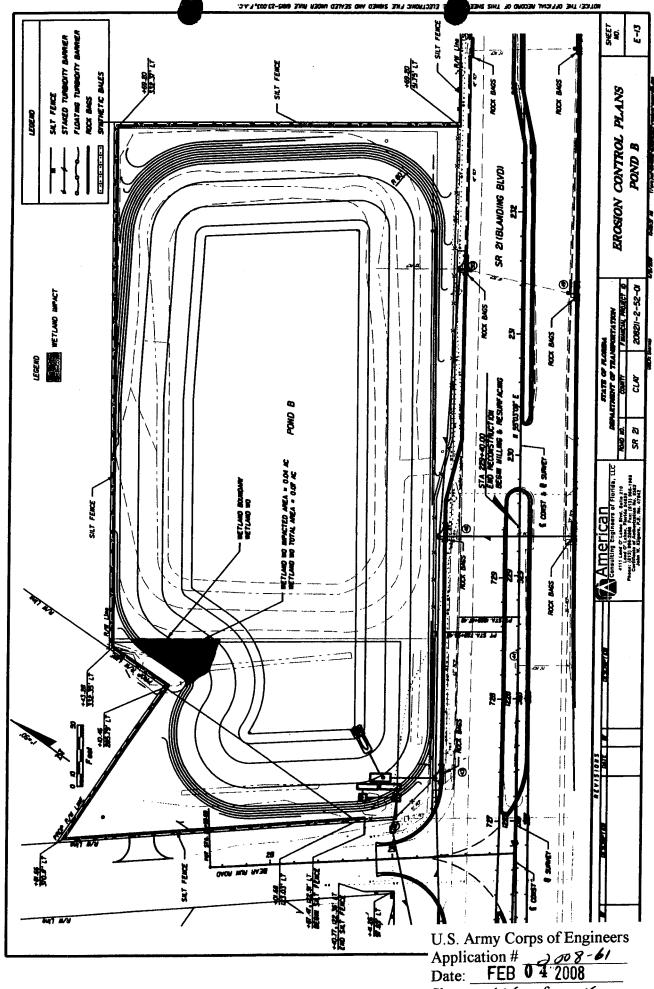






Sheet // of





14 of Sheet

## ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Post Office Box 1429 Palatka, Florida 32178-1429

PERMIT NO. 4-019-99494-2

DATE ISSUED: March 10, 2009

PROJECT NAME: SR 21 (Knight Boxx Rd to Old Jennings Rd), FPID 208211-2-52-01

#### A PERMIT AUTHORIZING:

Construction of a Surface Water Management System with stormwater treatment by wet detention for the widening of 1.03 miles of SR 21 (Knight Boxx Rd to Old Jennings Rd), FPID 208211-2-52-01, a 44.76-acre project. This permit authorizes work in, on, or over 1.24 acres of wetlands or other surface waters.

#### LOCATION:

Section(s):

28, 33

Township(s):

4S

Range(s):

25E

Clay County

#### **ISSUED TO:**

Florida Department of Transportation District 2 Van Humphreys 1109 S Marion Ave Lake City, FL 32025

Permittee agrees to hold and save the St. Johns River Water Management District and its successors harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise from permit issuance. Said application, including all plans and specifications attached thereto, is by reference made a part hereof.

This permit does not convey to permittee any property rights nor any rights of privileges other than those specified herein, nor relieve the permittee from complying with any law, regulation or requirement affecting the rights of other bodies or agencies. All structures and works installed by permittee hereunder shall remain the property of the permittee.

This permit may be revoked, modified or transferred at any time pursuant to the appropriate provisions of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes:

#### PERMIT IS CONDITIONED UPON:

See conditions on attached "Exhibit A", dated March 10, 2009

**AUTHORIZED BY: St. Johns River Water Management District** 

Department of Water Resources

Governing Board

By:

Jeff Elledge

(Director)

Ву

Kirby B. Green I

(Assistant Secretary)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit # 547-2008-61

Date: 3/16/09 Attachment: 2

HH

# "EXHIBIT A" CONDITIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMIT NUMBER 4-019-99494-2 FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 2 DATED MARCH 10, 2009

- All activities shall be implemented as set forth in the plans, specifications and performance criteria as approved by this permit. Any deviation from the permitted activity and the conditions for undertaking that activity shall constitute a violation of this permit.
- 2. This permit or a copy thereof, complete with all conditions, attachments, exhibits, and modifications, shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity. The complete permit shall be available for review at the work site upon request by District staff. The permittee shall require the contractor to review the complete permit prior to commencement of the activity authorized by this permit.
- 3. Activities approved by this permit shall be conducted in a manner which do not cause violations of state water quality standards.
- 4. Prior to and during construction, the permittee shall implement and maintain all erosion and sediment control measures (best management practices) required to retain sediment on-site and to prevent violations of state water quality standards. All practices must be in accordance with the guidelines and specifications in chapter 6 of the Florida Land Development Manual: A Guide to Sound Land and Water Management (Florida Department of Environmental Regulation 1988), which are incorporated by reference, unless a project specific erosion and sediment control plan is approved as part of the permit, in which case the practices must be in accordance with the plan. If site specific conditions require additional measures during any phase of construction or operation to prevent erosion or control sediment, beyond those specified in the erosion and sediment control plan, the permittee shall implement additional best management practices as necessary, in accordance with the specifications in chapter 6 of the Florida Land Development Manual: A Guide to Sound Land and Water Management (Florida Department of Environmental Regulation 1988). The permittee shall correct any erosion or shoaling that causes adverse impacts to the water resources.
- 5. Stabilization measures shall be initiated for erosion and sediment control on disturbed areas as soon as practicable in portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased, but in no case more than 7 days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased.
- 6. At least 48 hours prior to commencement of activity authorized by this permit, the permittee shall submit to the District a Construction Commencement Notice Form No. 40C-4.900(3) indicating the actual start date and the expected completion date.
- 7. When the duration of construction will exceed one year, the permittee shall submit construction status reports to the District on an annual basis utilizing an Annual Status Report Form No. 40C-4.900(4). These forms shall be submitted during June of each year.
- 8. For those systems which will be operated or maintained by an entity which will require an easement or deed restriction in order to provide that entity with the authority necessary to operate or maintain the system, such easement or deed restriction, together with any other final operation or maintenance documents as are required by subsections 7.1.1 through 7.1.4 of the Applicant's Handbook: Management and Storage of Surface Waters, must be submitted to the District for approval. Documents meeting the requirements set forth in these subsections of the Applicant's Handbook will be approved. Deed restrictions, easements and other operation and maintenance documents which require recordation either with the Secretary of State or the Clerk of the Circuit Court must be so recorded prior

to lot or unit sales within the project served by the system, or upon completion of construction of the system, whichever occurs first. For those systems which are proposed to be maintained by county or municipal entities, final operation and maintenance documents must be received by the District when maintenance and operation of the system is accepted by the local governmental entity. Failure to submit the appropriate final documents referenced in this paragraph will result in the permittee remaining liable for carrying out maintenance and operation of the permitted system.

- 9. Each phase or independent portion of the permitted system must be completed in accordance with the permitted plans and permit conditions prior to the initiation of the permitted use of site infrastructure located within the area served by the portion or phase of the system. Each phase or independent portion of the system must be completed in accordance with the permitted plans and permit conditions prior to transfer of responsibility for operation and maintenance of that phase or portion of the system to local government or other responsible entity.
- 10. Within 30 days after completion of construction of the permitted system, or independent portion of the system, the permittee shall submit a written statement of completion and certification by a registered professional engineer or other appropriate individual as authorized by law, utilizing As Built Certification Form 40C-1.181(13) or 40C-1.181(14) supplied with this permit. When the completed system differs substantially from the permitted plans, any substantial deviations shall be noted and explained and two copies of as-built drawings submitted to the District. Submittal of the completed from shall serve to notify the District that the system is ready for inspection. The statement of completion and certification shall be based on on-site observation of construction (conducted by the registered professional engineer, or other appropriate individual as authorized by law, or under his or her direct supervision) or review of as-built drawings for the purpose of determining if the work was completed in compliance with approved plans and specifications. As-built drawings shall be the permitted drawings revised to reflect any changes made during construction. Both the original and any revised specifications must be clearly shown. The plans must be clearly labeled as "as-built" or "record" drawing. All surveyed dimensions and elevations shall be certified by a registered surveyor. The following information, at a minimum, shall be verified on the as-built drawings:
  - 1. Dimensions and elevations of all discharge structures including all weirs, slots, gates, pumps, pipes, and oil and grease skimmers;
  - 2. Locations, dimensions, and elevations of all filter, exfiltration, or underdrain systems including cleanouts, pipes, connections to control structures, and points of discharge to the receiving waters;
  - 3. Dimensions, elevations, contours, or cross-sections of all treatment storage areas sufficient to determine state-storage relationships of the storage area and the permanent pool depth and volume below the control elevation for normally wet systems, when appropriate;
  - 4. Dimensions, elevations, contours, final grades, or cross-sections of the system to determine flow directions and conveyance of runoff to the treatment system;
  - 5. Dimensions, elevations, contours, final grades, or cross-sections of all conveyance systems utilized to convey off-site runoff around the system;
  - 6. Existing water elevation(s) and the date determined; and Elevation and location of benchmark(s) for the survey.

- 11. The operation phase of this permit shall not become effective until the permittee has complied with the requirements of general condition 9 above, the District determines the system to be in compliance with the permitted plans, and the entity approved by the District in accordance with subsections 7.1.1 through 7.1.4 of the Applicant's Handbook: Management and Storage of Surface Waters, accepts responsibility for operation and maintenance of the system. The permit may not be transferred to such an approved operation and maintenance entity until the operation phase of the permit becomes effective. Following inspection and approval of the permitted system by the District, the permittee shall request transfer of the permit to the responsible approved operation and maintenance entity, if different from the permittee. Until the permit is transferred pursuant to section 7.1 of the Applicant's Handbook: Management and Storage of Surface Waters, the permittee shall be liable for compliance with the terms of the permit.
- 12. Should any other regulatory agency require changes to the permitted system, the permittee shall provide written notification to the District of the changes prior implementation so that a determination can be made whether a permit modification is required.
- 13. This permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local and special district authorizations prior to the start of any activity approved by this permit. This permit does not convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any property right, or any interest in real property, nor does it authorize any entrance upon or activities on property which is not owned or controlled by the permittee, or convey any rights or privileges other than those specified in the permit and chapter 40C-4 or chapter 40C-40, F.A.C.
- 14. The permittee shall hold and save the District harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise by reason of the activities authorized by the permit or any use of the permitted system.
- 15. Any delineation of the extent of a wetland or other surface water submitted as part of the permit application, including plans or other supporting documentation, shall not be considered specifically approved unless a specific condition of this permit or a formal determination under rule 40C-1.1006, F.A.C., provides otherwise.
- 16. The permittee shall notify the District-in writing within 30 days of any sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership or control of the permitted system or the real property at which the permitted system is located. All transfers of ownership or transfers of a permit are subject to the requirements of rule 40C-1.612, F.A.C. The permittee transferring the permit shall remain liable for any corrective actions that may be required as a result of any permit violations prior to such sale, conveyance or other transfer.
- 17. Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, District authorized staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the system to insure conformity with the plans and specifications approved by the permit.
- 18. If historical or archaeological artifacts are discovered at any time on the project site, the permittee shall immediately notify the District.
- 19. The permittee shall immediately notify the District in writing of any previously submitted information that is later discovered to be inaccurate.
- 20. This permit for construction will expire five years from the date of issuance.
- 21. At a minimum, all retention and detention storage areas must be excavated to rough grade prior to building construction or placement of impervious surface within the area to be served by those facilities. To prevent reduction in storage volume and percolation rates, all accumulated sediment must be removed from the storage area prior to final grading and stabilization.

- 22. All wetland areas or water bodies that are outside the specific limits of construction authorized by this permit must be protected from erosion, siltation, scouring or excess turbidity, and dewatering.
- 23. Prior to construction, the permittee must clearly designate the limits of construction on-site. The permittee must advise the contractor that any work outside the limits of construction, including clearing, may be a violation of this permit.
- 24. The surface water management system shall be constructed in accordance with the plans received by the District on December 26, 2007, as modified by plans received by the District on October 13, 2008, and as modified by sheets 69 and 72 received by the district on December 11, 2008.
- 25. The operation and maintenance entity shall inspect the stormwater or surface water management system once within two years after the completion of construction and every two years thereafter to determine if the system is functioning as designed and permitted. The operation and maintenance entity must maintain a record of each required inspection, including the date of the inspection, the name, address, and telephone number of the inspector, and whether the system was functioning as designed and permitted, and make such record available for inspection upon request by the District during normal business hours.

If at any time the system is not functioning as designed and permitted, then within 14 days the entity shall submit an Exceptions Report to the District, on form number 40C-42.900(6), Exceptions Report for Stormwater Management Systems Out of Compliance.

- 26. Prior to initiation of construction, the permittee shall submit a detailed erosion and sediment control plan to the District for written approval. The plan shall detail all erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented both during and after construction. At a minimum the plan shall include:
  - a. Identification of any areas where any dewatering will be performed during construction;
  - b. Details of specific erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented to control the discharge of turbid water due to any dewatering activities;
  - c. Construction sequencing and details of all erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented during each sequence.

Construction shall not commence until the permittee receives written approval of the plan from the District.

- 27. During the bridge construction activities, the permittee must monitor turbidity at the following locations:
  - a. Within the Little Black Creek immediately upstream of the westernmost turbidity control measure (background sample).
  - b. Within the Little Black Creek immediately downstream of the easternmost turbidity control measure.

The background sample must not be taken within any visible plume. Samples must be collected two times daily with a morning and afternoon sample at least four hours apart during the bridge construction activities.

- 28. Before removal of the turbidity control measures, the turbidity levels within the area surrounded by the turbidity control measures must be sampled to ensure no release of turbid water once the turbidity control measures are removed. The turbidity control measures may not be removed until the sample data indicates levels which do not exceed the State Water Quality Standards. This sample data must be included within the weekly turbidity data report.
- 29. If at any time the downstream turbidity level exceeds the State Water Quality Standards, then all measures required to reduce the turbidity including stopping all bridge construction activities, must be taken. Bridge construction must not resume until the turbidity has returned to acceptable levels. Any such violation must be reported immediately to the District's Jacksonville Service Center.
- 30. All turbidity data must be submitted to the District weekly to the attention of the Compliance Manager for the Jacksonville Service Center. The data must contain the following information:
  - permit number;
  - date and time of sampling and analysis;
  - statement describing collection, handling, storage, and analysis methods;
  - a map indicating the location of the samples taken;
  - depth of sample;
  - antecedent weather conditions; and,
  - tidal stage and/or flow direction.
- 31. For activities on sovereign submerged lands that require a consent of use, lease, easement, management agreement, or use agreement, construction shall not commence until the sovereign submerged lands instrument has been fully executed. Within 30 days of recording a requisite lease or easement, the permittee must provide the District with two copies of said recorded document.
- 32. Mitigation to offset the 1.68 acres of impacts to wetlands and other surface waters authorized by this permit will be provided through Section 373.4137, F.S. Construction activities shall not occur prior to the approval of the mitigation plan by the District's Governing Board or its designee.

#### **State Lands Other Condition**

1. Any docking or mooring of any waterborne vessel to the bridge pilings, on either a temporary or permanent basis, is prohibited. To ensure compliance, the grantee shall place and maintain on the bridge pilings, during the term of this easement, two (2) signs advising boaters that mooring or docking, on either a temporary or permanent basis, is prohibited.

#### AS-BUILT CERTIFICATION BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Submit this form and one set of as-built engineered drawings to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Branch, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019. If you have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Enforcement Branch at 904-232-2907.

1.	Department of the Arm	y Permit Number:_				
2.	Permittee Information:					
	Name					
	Address					
				····		
3.	Project Site Identific	cation:				
Phys	ical location/address					
4.	As-Built Certification	n:				
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Flor	ida Reg. Number	Company Name				
		Address				
(Aff	ix Seal)	City	State	ZIP		
Date	<u>}</u>	Telephone Numbe	er			
Devi addi	lations from the appro tional pages if necess	oved plans and a ary)	specifications:	(attach		
			U.S. Army Corps of l	Engineers		

Attachment: \_\_\_\_



Number:



Conversion services provided by:

# MICR (GRAPHICS

The Information and Image Managers
1925-A NW Second Street
Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone: (352) 372-6039 - Fax: (352) 378-6039 On-line: www.micrographicsinc.com

#### MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings for the Above-numbered Permit Application

1. Applicant: Florida Department of Transportation - District 2
Attn: Van Humphreys
1109 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, Florida 32025

2. Location, Project Description, Existing Conditions: The project is the widening of State Road 21 (SR-21) also known as Blanding Blvd. from Old Jennings Road to Knight Boxx Road, in Section 28 & 33, Township 4 South, Range 25 East, northeastern Clay County, Florida. The project as proposed will impact jurisdictional waters of the United States (wetlands) associated with Little Black Creek.

The applicant proposes to impact 1.12 acres of wetlands for the widening of SR-21 from a 4-lane roadway to a 6-lane divided urban roadway, including 4-foot bike lanes, and 6 foot sidewalk in each direction. The project also involves the widening of the existing dual bridges over Little Black Creek. Widening of the bridges will be done to the inside.

Extensive freshwater wetlands exist on both sides of SR-21 along the project area, including Little Black Creek. Drainage accommodations include the construction of two pond sites, and construction of an outfall system from the proposed pond sites to the Little Black Creek. The drainage for the entire corridor will be a closed system. Runoff north of the bridge will be collected into pond B. The existing ditches will remain to convey offsite water to Little Black Creek.

Wetland O is boarded by SR-21 and Bear Run Road. To the east of the wetland is a man made surface water system. The wetland is highly disturbed and low quality due to nearby development and human activities. Vegetative composition within this wetland is typical of a forested system. Wetland O is hydrologically connected to Little Black Creek.

Wetland 1 is a forested wetland associated with Little Black Creek located on the north side of SR-21. The wetland is dominated by cypress, sweet gum, red maple, and chain fern.

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

Wetland buffers exceed 300 feet on the north and sides. The wetland is considered a high quality system.

Wetland 7 is a forested system located on the south side of the road. It is connected to other wetland systems through a ditch system that drains to Little Black Creek. Wetland 7 is vegetated similar to Wetland 1 and considered a medium/high quality system based it indirect connection to Little Black Creek, surrounding development, and adjacent disturbances.

Wetland 9 is a planted pine system dominated by slash pine with hydric soils located on the north side of SR-21. Wetland 9 continues north and east from the project site until it reaches Little Black Creek. Due to the planted nature and the routine disturbance associated with planted pine communities this system is considered medium/low quality.

3. Project Purpose: Basic: Widening of existing roadway.

Overall: Widening of SR-21 from Old Jennings Road to Knight Boxx Road including improvement of the existing stormwater management systems.

- 4. Scope of Analysis: The scope of analysis was limited to the project site and included endangered species, essential fisheries habitat concerns, and cultural resources.
- 5. Statutory Authority: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
- 6. Other Federal, State, and Local Authorizations Obtained or Required and Pending:
- a. State Permit/Certification: The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) permit number 4-019-99494-2 was issued on 10 March 2009.
- b. Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency/permit: There is no evidence or indication from the State of Florida that the project is inconsistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Plan. Issuance of a SJRWMD permit certifies that the project is consistent with the CZM plan.
- c. Other Authorizations: No information has been received regarding any other authorizations that may be required.

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

#### 7. Date of Public Notice and Summary of Comments

- a. The application was received on 4 January 2008. The application was considered complete on 25 January 2008. A public notice was issued on 4 February 2008, and sent to all interested parties including appropriate State and Federal agencies. All comments received on this application have been reviewed and are summarized below:
- (1) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Did not respond to the public notice.
- (2) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): Did not have the manpower to review the project and took no position in the issuance of a permit.
- (3) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): By letter dated 22 February 2008, the NMFS had no objection to the proposed project/deferred to FWS for comments on the project.
- (4) State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): By letter dated 20 February 2008, SHPO indicated that the proposed project would have no effect on any sites listed, or eligible for listing, in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, or otherwise of national, state, or local significance.
- (5) No comments were received from State or Local agencies, organizations, individuals or any other interested party.
- b. Applicant's response to the comments: The comments were not coordinated with the applicant since no adverse comments were received.

#### 8. Alternatives:

a. Avoidance (No action, uplands, availability of other sites): The purpose of the project is to improve safety and add capacity along SR 21. In order to make such improvement the applicant proposes to widen the existing roadway. The alternatives for the roadway are limited to roadway alignment changes, stormwater management pond location, and the no build alternative.

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

The applicant has completed a Project Development and Environmental study (PD&E) which evaluated each of alternatives described above. The study evaluated the Level of Service (LOS) of the existing alignment. LOS is a measure of the quality of the vehicular traffic flow on a roadway. LOS A represents free-flow conditions and LOS F represents highly congested or stop and go conditions. The study concluded the "no build" year 2000 and 2005 LOS at this location is "D", and in 2010 will be "F" the lowest possible level. The desired LOS for this classification of roadway is C or better. The study also concluded the no action alternative would not allow for project completion and would continue to cause traffic and safety concerns. If constructed the overall level of service would have a short term improvement but will have a LOS of "F" in 2025.

The construction of a new road or alternate alignment would not be feasible give the cost of construction, impacts to the environment, and relocation of existing homes and businesses.

- b. Minimization (modified project designs, etc.): The project has been minimized to the maximum extent possible that would allow the applicant to achieve the project purpose. The applicant was not asked to further explore minimization alternatives beyond those already achieved, given the quality of the existing resource and the developed nature of the roadway corridor.
- Compensatory Mitigation (Wetland enhancement, creations, etc.): To ensure no net loss of wetland functions the applicant proposes to offset all wetland impacts by contributing funds to SJRWMD in accordance with section 373.4137, Florida Statute. project will specifically be mitigated as part of the SJRWMD FDOT Mitigation Plan 2007 Road Projects, Basin 4, Mitigation ID# SJ-50. More specifically found on page 6 of the 200 FDOT Mitigation Plan, the plan calls for purchase of mitigation bank credits from state and federally approved Loblolly Mitigation Banks located within the same drainage basin as the impacts. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District signed October 16, 2007 and October 9, 2007 respectively, the SJRWMD shall submit an annual status report and five year update of the mitigation described above.

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

The applicant has determined the road realignment will cause the loss of 0.59 functional units. The Corps generally concurs with the applicant's functional assessment. The compensatory mitigation provided will exceed the functional loss, ensuring there is no net loss of wetland function and the 404(b)(1) guidelines.

9. Evaluation of the 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed project has been reviewed in accordance with the 404 (b)(1) Guidelines. The review shows that all the alternatives have been reviewed and it has been adequately demonstrated that the proposed alternative is the least environmentally damaging and only practicable alternative considering cost, existing technology and logistics. It would not cause or contribute to violations of State Water quality standards, jeopardize the existence of any endangered species or impact a marine sanctuary. No significant degradation would be expected and all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize impacts.

#### 10. Public Interest Review:

- a. Corps analysis of comments and responses: All comments received in response to the public notice have been considered in the following public interest review.
- b. All public interest factors have been reviewed, including but not limited to the effects the work might have on conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water quality, safety, and consideration of property ownership. It has been determined that the proposed work will not adversely impact any of the public interest factors.
- c. Describe the relative extent of the public and private need for the proposed structure or work: The beneficial effects for public transportation may include an increase in public safety, increased carrying capacity of the roadway and the more effective movement of vehicular traffic. The increased carrying capacity may also facilitate intrastate/interstate commerce.
- d. Describe the practicability of using reasonable alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objective of the purposed work where there are unresolved conflicts as to

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

resource use: There are no unresolved conflicts regarding resource use.

- e. Describe the extent and permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects which the proposed work is likely to have on the public and private uses to which the area is suited: The beneficial effects for public transportation may include an increase in public safety, increased carrying capacity of the roadway and the more effective movement of vehicular traffic. The increased carrying capacity may also facilitate intrastate/interstate commerce.
- f. Threatened or Endangered Species: The proposed project will not jeopardize the continued existence or critical habitat of any threatened or endangered species.
- g. Essential Fisheries Habitat (EFH): The public notice included an initial determination that the project would not have an adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries. The NMFS did not provide any EFH conservation recommendations in response to the public notice. Therefore, the Corps is satisfied that the consultation procedures outlined in 50 CFR Section 600.920 of the regulation to implement the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act have been met.
- h. Corps Wetland Policy: The proposed wetland alteration is necessary to realize the project purpose and should result in minimal adverse environmental impacts. The benefits of the project would outweigh the minimal detrimental impacts. The project would result in a no-net loss of wetland functions and values. Therefore the project is in accordance with the Corps wetland policy.
- i. Cumulative and Secondary Impacts: The proposed project is associated with an existing roadway which is undersized for future roadway capacity. Mitigation provided by the applicant would provide long-term functional replacement; therefore, there should not be a cumulative impact to wetland functions within the basin. The use of silt screens and Best Management Practices will also reduce the potential of secondary impacts. The use of compensatory mitigation within the same drainage basin will reduce overall cumulative wetland losses within the basin.

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

j. Corps Comments and Responses: Full consideration was given to all comments received during the public notice. No adverse comments were received.

#### 11. Determinations:

- a. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Having reviewed the information provided by the applicant and all interested parties and an assessment of the environmental impacts, I find that this permit action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.
- b. Compliance with 404(b)(1) guidelines. Having completed the evaluation in paragraph 7 above, I have determined that the proposed discharge complies with the 404(b)(1) guidelines.
- c. Public interest determination: I find that issuance of a Department of the Army permit is not contrary to the public interest.
- d. Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review: The proposed permit action has been analyzed for conformity applicability pursuant to regulations implementing Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. It has been determined that the activities proposed under this permit will not exceed de minimis levels of direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors and are exempted by 40 CFR Part 93.153. Any later indirect emissions are generally not within the Corps' continuing program responsibility and generally cannot be practicably controlled by the Corps. For these reasons a conformity determination is not required for this permit action.

PREPARED BY:

ANDREW W. PHILLIPS Project Manager

North Permits Branch

SUBJECT: Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings on the Above-Numbered Permit Application.

REVIEWED BY:

IRENE F. SADOWSKI

Chief, Cocoa Permits Section

cc: RD-PE

APPROVED BY:

PAUL L. GROSSKRUGER

Colonel, Corps of Engineers

Commanding